



The Hour

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FIVE MOBILIZERS HAVE CRIMINAL RECORDS

Burglary, Procuring and Rape Among Offenses of New York Fascists

That the leaders of the fascist Christian Mobilizers are not of the best type of humanity, has been evident from their speeches and actions ever since they first preached hatred in public halls and took to brawling in the streets of New York. That certain of these leaders have criminal records, of dates older than the men's political activities, has not been generally known. Here we present five Mobilizers and their records as compiled by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, Inc., from the official data of New York authorities, and supplemented from the files of The Hour:

Westphal, the Burglar

Edwin Westphal is not only on the Advisory Board of the Christian Mobilizers but is also a member of the German-American Bund. He has appeared on the platform of the Crusaders for Americanism, a Christian Front organization which has recently become practically defunct. Westphal's favorite cry to his listeners is, "What we need here is another Hitler or Franco!" His criminal record follows:

September 27, 1929 -- Arrested for burglary, but the witness (his stepfather) relented and withdrew the charge.
November 21, 1929 -- Indicted for burglary, second degree; grand larceny, second degree; and receiving. Pleaded guilty to burglary in third degree, sentenced December 13, 1929.
July 14, 1930 -- Convicted at 5th District Court, Queens, as wayward minor. Sentenced to New York State Reformatory.
February 17, 1937 -- Convicted of violation of Copyright Law. Sentence suspended.
July 1, 1937 -- Convicted for violation of Copyright Law. Sentenced to 60 days, sentence suspended.
August 13, 1939 -- Convicted on disorderly conduct charge. Sentenced to six months' probation.

Hartery, the Procurer

Joseph Hartery is a street speaker for the Christian Mobilizers. He is known for the extreme violence of his attacks upon democracy, President Roosevelt; and Jews. He is said to be among the first fascists to use the phrase, "Our President Rosenfelt." It is also claimed that Hartery fears nothing. Once, in Night Court, while listening to the trial of one of his henchmen who had been arrested for placing anti-Semitic stickers on news-stands in Yorkville, Hartery was seen placing similar stickers all over the courtroom. An alert reporter stopped him in the act, and Hartery was arrested. His criminal record is rather varied, namely:

January 7, 1932 -- Arrested under the name of Joseph Herman. Charged with offering or agreeing to receive two persons for purpose of prostitution, lewdness and assignation. Pleaded guilty and sentenced to 30 days.

December 21 1934 -- Discharged from work for an attempted attack on a fellow worker with an axe.

December 14, 1938 -- Arrested for threatening a man with a clasp knife. Sentenced to three days in workhouse.

February 14, 1939 -- Arrested for defacing seats in a courtroom. Sentence suspended.

August 31, 1939 -- Fined ten dollars for statements made at a street meeting.

Zitter's Burglaries

John Zitter is the former captain of the Christian Mobilizers' Guard Unit and is now a Mobilizers' street speaker. He has had some high-school education. It was Zitter who first conceived the idea of the strongarm squad which used to march through the Times Square area, knocking down and beating those who attempted to sell anti-Coughlin literature. Zitter's men would surround an anti-fascist vendor, then Zitter himself would throw the man down and beat him, overcoming the victim's resistance with a quick series of blows. The following is Zitter's criminal record:

November 3, 1934 -- Arrested for burglary. Later he and his accomplice admitted four other burglaries, which had taken place during the 2½-month period prior to his arrest.

December 4, 1934 -- His sentence was suspended at a court of General Sessions, and he was placed on probation for a period of two years.

August 26, 1939 -- Served with a court summons for inflammatory speech delivered on August 25, 1939, at a street meeting in the Bronx.

Olivo, the Rapist

John J. Olivo is the present captain of the Christian Mobilizers' Guard Unit. In the past he has served as a speaker for his chief, Joseph E. McWilliams, but now most of his time is devoted to the training

of young Mobilizers in drilling and rifle practice, also in jiu jitsu, boxing, wrestling, and general street-fighting tactics. As a boy, he had gone to Public School No. 37, where his behavior and scholastic record were of a low caliber. Later he was treated at Bellevue Hospital for venereal disease. His criminal record consists of the following:

January 14, 1931 -- Committed to a Children's Court as a delinquent after he had been arraigned for stealing an automobile.
October 11, 1934 -- Arrested for attacking and raping a woman in Central Park, and fleeing with the contents of her purse.
December 10, 1934 -- Sentenced to the penitentiary.

Burke's Thievery

Edmund Vincent Burke is a platform and street speaker for the Christian Mobilizers. His favorite theme is praise of Hitler and a call to an economic battle against the Jews in business, the press, radio and movies. In the absence of McWilliams he often serves as the Mobilizers' chairman. At the time of his arrest, a medical examination showed that he was retarded mentally. His record indicates one difficulty with the law:

August 31, 1926 -- Arrested for breaking and entering a jewelry store and stealing a tray containing a number of white-gold and diamond rings, several platinum mounted diamond rings, six wedding rings, and eighteen bracelets.

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COUGHLIN'S MAGAZINE SUGGESTS PICKETING OF THE HOUR

Hedges on the Problem of Mobilizers

Father Coughlin's Social Justice of November 6, on page 10, suggests: "Why not picket the editorial offices of The Hour?" The article also asserts: "The Hour, according to the information which our New York correspondents furnish Social Justice, is admittedly a British propaganda organ." This assertion is an outright falsehood. The Hour is an American publication concerned solely in furthering the interests of American democracy. The charge by Coughlin's correspondents is a fantasy of their devising to avoid discussing the true facts of the un-Christian activities of the Christian Mobilizers who threatened to picket the Catholic church of the Paulist Fathers (see The Hour for October 28 and Time for October 30). Stung by the anti-Christian activities of his professed followers, Father Coughlin's journal attempts to deny that there is any official connection between the Mobilizers and the Father. Nevertheless the writer for Coughlin declares: "Many well-intentioned Christians are no doubt members of the Christian Mobilizers. Our New York correspondent reports that members of that organization have done -- and are doing -- very excellent work in selling Social Justice magazine." However, according to the author of the piece, "at no time has Father Coughlin or Social Justice given endorsement to the Christian Mobilizers." Still, the question of the Father's official endorsement is not the important issue, as his spokesman revealingly explains: "Organized activity of Christian Americans must be carried on if America is to be saved from the organized activity

of non-Christians. But the stamp of approval on this or that organization cannot come from Father Coughlin." The far from salutary influence of Father Coughlin, despite his aloofness from organizational ties, is admitted by the article when it concludes by saying: "The claim, therefore, by any subversive group that Father Coughlin is its spiritual leader may attract many supporters."

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PHILADELPHIA COUGHLINITES HOLD MASS-MEETING

On November 2 the Coughlinites of Philadelphia began their fall activity with a mass meeting at the local Metropolitan Opera House. About 1,000 persons attended. The Coughlinites of Philadelphia work mainly through the so-called Committee for the Defense of Constitutional Rights, which includes Thomas Blissard, a West Philadelphian who last year was sentenced to one year of probation for breaking up anti-fascist meetings. Another follower of Father Coughlin who collaborated in running the Opera House meeting is Mrs. David D. Good, national president of the Dames of the Loyal Legion, a unit of Captain John B. Trevor's fascist American Coalition of Patriotic Societies. The meeting was devoted to attacks on Jews and to the eulogizing of the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin as the man who "will put the fear of God in our legislators."

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FASCISTS ACTIVE AMONG PHILADELPHIA NEGROES

An anti-Semitic movement among Negroes is being fostered in Philadelphia, and the method closely resembles that already tried in New York (see The Hour for October 21). The Philadelphia attempt is headed by Octavia Brown, a politician who has been running for city offices independently for the last eight years, counting on the nuisance value to bring her political plums. She has gained the support of the Civic League of North Philadelphia, a Negro group, but is being fought by the newly organized Negro Affairs Committee of Labor's Non-Partisan League. Anti-Semitic activities among Negroes manifest themselves in general distribution of leaflets, also in the sending of a letter to Negro leaders by the Civic League supporting Miss Brown for City Council and attacking Jewish business men. On the other hand, in three months of its existence the anti-fascist Negro Affairs Committee has won a large following for its program of equal opportunity and no discrimination.

The local Christian Front is now doing its printing at the non-union shop of an anti-Semitic Negro in Manayunk. Being unwilling to use printing from a union shop or from one owned by a Jew, the Christian Fronters of Philadelphia for a long time were compelled to rely almost entirely on leaflets and newspapers printed in other cities, and so lacked the much-needed local slant in their literature. With the discovery of the anti-Semitic Negro printer the gap is closed, for the time being at least. The Negro community, however, criticizes the printer severely.

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FASCIST NEWTON JENKINS PREPARES FOR 1940 ELECTIONS

Midwesterner Polished Up His Plans After Visit to
Nazi Germany a Few Months Ago

We hear from Chicago that Newton Jenkins has been recently holding weekly meetings at the Arcade Cafeteria, 32 South Clark Street, to organize his fascist followers for the 1940 presidential elections. This past summer he once more visited the Reich and again brought back a report that Hitler is a great statesman and Germany is very lucky to have such a leader. Earlier in 1939 he published a booklet, The Republic Reclaimed, which sold for one dollar, but when he came back from Germany the price went down to 25 cents. The Chicago correspondent of The Hour visited Jenkins on Monday, October 23, and found the fascist leader as anti-Semitic and anti-democratic as ever. Jenkins said that he blames the Jews for the war. He also said that five years from now the Jews will be hanged on Halsted Street in Chicago as well as in Union Square of New York.

Wants a Hitler Instead of a Roosevelt

Newton Jenkins has been known in Chicago for the last five years as a sympathizer and speaker for the Bund and other Nazi or pro-Nazi organizations; he has been active also as the head and promoter of his own organizations and publications. On December 9, 1935, in a speech made at Sheboygan, Wis., he said: "It is a lucky thing for the world that Hitler is on the job in Europe. I look upon him as one of the greatest statesmen in the world today and I am firmly of the opinion that false propaganda which saturates our country against him and his nation does not express the sober judgment of the American people." On his visits to Germany, the Nazis are fond of quoting Jenkins in the press and on the radio as the finest and most representative American.

In his American Nationalism of January, 1937, Jenkins printed such headlines as "World Indebted to Mussolini," and "Stop Boycotting Germany." In his Third Party News of October, 1935, he wrote: "On every hand we hear the expression that 'we need a Hitler in America.' ... We won't find such a leader among the political trimmers of the old parties. Perhaps he will emerge as an Unknown Soldier. Mussolini and Hitler stepped out of the ranks and saved their countries. Perhaps the same thing will take place in America. In the face of that kind of competition Roosevelt could not survive." It is just this talk that Jenkins is reviving now in his cafeteria conferences in preparation for the 1940 presidential campaign.
